

End of Term News – December 2022

Christmas Fair Gratitude

On behalf of all children, staff and governors I would like to extend my sincere thanks for all your tremendous support with last week's Christmas Fair. Your generosity and kindness relating to your donating of toys, bottles and toiletries was overwhelming, and I thank you further for supporting the fair itself. An amazing sum of £2038.10 was raised which will be added to previously raised monies which will help to purchase consumable resources and equipment to support children's learning. Concerning the competitions at the fair, the winning children's names are below:

Names of the competition winners are as follows:

Cake Winners

Reception	Harrison
Year 1	Elsie
Year 2	Jhye
Year 3	Jake
Year 4	Finlay (with help from Cameron)
Year 5	Emily
Year 6	Sienna

Raffle Prize Winners

1 st Prize	X-Box Console Game	Mrs Callow
2 nd Prize	Bluetooth Speakers	Mrs Keeling
2 rd Prize	Portable Stereo	Mr Key

Public Health Update re: Scarlet Fever and Strep A Infections

Further to the recent letters from both the Department for Education and UK Health Security Agency, Wolverhampton's Local Health Protection Team convened a meeting to discuss the importance of remaining vigilant to the signs of Scarlet Fever and Strep A infections. The early symptoms include a sore throat, headaches, fever, nausea and vomiting before the appearance and onset of the characteristic red, pinhead rash. This typically appears first on the chest and stomach, before rapidly developing to other parts of the body – giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.

Within school, we have been following the recommended guidance ensuring all tabletops, door handles and handrails - as frequent touch points – are anti-bacterially cleaned each day. Children have also been instructed to wash their hands frequently in order to minimise the risk of infection.

Change of the School Day Times

As you may recall, I previously wrote to inform you of a change to the school day – increasing to 32.5 hours per week. Whilst school is currently open for this length of time, we are now unable to count the ten minutes' window of arrival; 8:45 – 8:55 a.m.

Much discussion has ensued between staff and governors and with Mrs Lacey from Ashmore Park Nursery School regarding the extending of the school day. Therefore, from the start of the spring term, on Tuesday 3rd January 2023, **the first bell will ring at 8:35a.m. to mark the opening of doors with the second bell sounding at 8:45 a.m. whereupon the statutory registration will take place.** All children must be in class at this time to avoid being marked late. Adopting these new times will ensure that the end of the school day remains the same thus supporting families with younger children attending Ashmore Park Nursery School. The changes to the school day will require some adjustment for all of us, therefore, we thank you for your assistance in ensuring your child/ren arrive punctually at these new times. Thank you.



School Closure in the event of Inclement Weather

Wolverhampton City Council have recently issued new guidance and procedures to follow in the event of severe weather conditions. Wherever possible, school will remain open in the event of experiencing severe weather. However, if, for health and safety related reasons the school is closed (either as a result of a city-wide general closure or for localised reasons) you will be notified by a text message and the closure will be posted on: Wolverhampton Today Facebook page; the City of Wolverhampton Council's Twitter feed and on the City's Website.

Autumn Term Summary Report

Today, your child will bring home their first summary report of this school year. The report is designed to inform you of your child's current attendance (in comparison with our school's target of 96%) and their attainment and progress in line with their age-related expectations. The report builds upon the discussions at our recent parent consultations – for which we thank you for attending – and to keep you informed of your child's progress before the next consultations scheduled for: Wednesday 15th (3.30-7.00p.m.) and Thursday 16th March 2023. (3.30-5.30p.m.).

Friends of Oak Meadow

As we near the end of our first term of this school year, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our Friends of Oak Meadow. As a whole school, we are extremely grateful for the Friends' help and support. This term alone, the Friends have helped with our school discos for all year groups from Reception to Year 6, the organisation and purchasing of gifts for Santa's visit and with the Christmas Fair. Much work is undertaken behind the scenes which ensures our planned events run smoothly. We appreciate the volunteering of our Friends' time hugely; if you would like to support and join the Friends, please speak to Mr Lane. Thank you.

Thanks to our Church Family

Each year we are supported by Wednesfield's Methodist Church family. Fortnightly, Reverend Sam and Emily, the church's family worker, lead 'Open the Book' assemblies for Year 2 and 3 children. Bible stories are shared and acted out by volunteers from the church and it is a pleasure seeing the children's animated responses. This year, we have also been supported by Reverend Sam and Emily in the making of Christingles, who have supplied the oranges and components for each child to make their own Christingle. Again, I am appreciative of the relationship we have with all involved in the Methodist Church and thank them dearly.

Oak Meadow Academy Conversion

To update you on the progress of our application to join St. Bartholomew's Multi Academy Trust, our application has now been approved by the Regional Schools Director. At present, there is much legal work taking place between Wolverhampton City Council, St Bartholomew's Multi-Trust Academy and the Department for Education with an anticipated conversion date of 1st April 2023. This date is dependent upon the progress and completion of all document transfers. I will continue to keep you informed.

School Garden Award



I am thrilled to announce Oak Meadow's winning of the 'Best School Garden 2022' – a fantastic accolade for our school and a worthy tribute to all of the hard work from Mr Godwin, Mr Clarkson and Mr Simmonds who all work zealously to maintain our gardens and site with such care and pride. Thanks must also be expressed to all our gardening club members who, in all weathers, don appropriate clothing to help plant and weed our borders, beds and forest school area. I am extremely pleased and thank everyone for their hard work.

Finally, please see the following dates of events planned for the spring term. Within the diary, is a themed impact and enrichment week entitled, 'A Million Dreams'. Mr Lane will provide more information about this celebratory themed week in the new year but other events are detailed for your information. If you have any questions, arising from the dates, please speak to either Mr Lane or me. Thank you.

As I write this newsletter, I feel surprise at the speed in which this term has passed but, as always, all staff, are wholly appreciative of your support and of the partnership that exists between home and school... we thank you for this.

To conclude this term, on behalf of staff and governors, I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas. The new term starts on Tuesday 3rd January. I look forward to the safe return of all children at the new school times of **8:35–8:45a.m.** Thank you.

My best wishes to you all at this Christmas time,

Mr S Arnold



Week	Date	Spring Term Calendar Events
1	Mon 2 nd Jan	2 nd Bank Holiday (School Closed for all Children) 3 rd Children return for Spring Term 1 with new school day times: 8.35-8.45a.m.
2	Mon 9 th Jan	9 th School Nursing Service: Year 6 Year 6 height and Weight Checks 12 th Prospective Visit to Oak Meadow – Prospective 2023 Parents and Carers Tour 13 th Reception Parents' and Carers' Number Workshop– Ash House Children 1:45pm 13 th Year 5 swimming commences
3	Mon 16 th Jan	16 th Martin Luther King Day 19 th Year 3 Rainforest Assembly (Parents/ Carers welcome to attend) 20 th Reception Parents' and Carers' Number Workshop– Rowan House Children 1:45pm
4	Mon 23 rd Jan	24 th Inter-School Spelling Bee Competition (Selected Year 3 and 4 children) 27 th Reception Parents' and Carers' Number Workshop– Willow House Children 1:45pm
5	Mon 30 th Jan	1 st Year 2 Squirrel Learning Technology Day 3 rd Reception Parents' and Carers' Number Workshop– Yew House Children 1:45pm
6	Mon 6 th Feb	6 th – 9 th Year 6 Practice SATs Week 6 th - 10 th Children's Mental Health Week 7 th Safer Internet Day 7 th and 8 th School Nursing Service: Reception Height and Weight Checks 9 th Year 2 Topic Assembly (Parents/ Carers welcome to attend)
7	Mon 13 th Feb	13 th – 19 th IMPACT and Enrichment Week: A Million Dreams 2023 16 th Curriculum Governors' Meeting 17 th Random Acts of Kindness Day
Half Term: Monday 20th February – Friday 24th February 2023		
8	Mon 27 th Feb	27 th INSET Day (School Closed for all Children) 27 th – February – 10 th March – Fair Trade Fortnight 28 th Children Return for Spring Term 2 28 th Fair Trade Fortnight 1 st St. David's Day 2 nd World Book Day 2 nd Year 4 World Book Day Assembly 9.00a.m. (Parents/ Carers welcome to attend)
9	Mon 6 th Mar	6 th – 10 th Science Week 6 th Year 4 Squirrel Learning Technology Day
10	Mon 13 th Mar	13 th Children's Assessment Week 15 th Parent and Carer Consultations (3:30 – 7:00pm) 16 th Reception Mothers' Day Assembly 9.00a.m. (Parents/ Carers welcome to attend) 16 th Parent and Carer Consultations (3:30 – 5:30pm) 17 th St. Patrick's Day 17 th Wrates Group Photography Day
11	Mon 20 th Mar	20 th National Maths Day Parent and Carer Workshops (Year1, 2 & 3) 9.00a.m. 21 st National Maths Day Parent and Carer Workshops (Year4, 5 & 6) 9.00a.m. 22 nd – 24 th Year 4 Kingswood Residential Visit 23 rd Governors' Finance and General Purposes Meeting
12	Mon 27 th Mar	27 th – 31 st National Autism Week 30 th Year 5 Easter Assembly 9.00a.m. (Parents/ Carers welcome to attend) 30 th Governors' Full Board Meeting 31 st End of Spring Term Reports to Parents and Carers
Easter Holiday: Summer Term begins Monday 17th April 2023		

